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MAY 11 2004

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

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May 11, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/782,707 filed February 18, 2004  
Applicant: Colibert, et al.  
Title: **DISPLACABLE BALL HITCH ASSEMBLY AND METHOD FOR THE SAME**  
Group Art Unit:  
Attorney Docket No. 21662.NP

Sir/Madam:

Transmitted herewith for filing and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97 is an Information Disclosure Statement.

Enclosed also are the following designated documents, as required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98:

- Form PTO-1449 list of 8 references submitted for consideration.
- Legible copies of the listed references or their relevant portions.
- Copies of U.S. patents and/or publications are not included pursuant to the Official Gazette Notice, dated Aug. 5, 2003, waiving the requirement of 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2)(i).
- All English translations of each non-English reference, if any, within the possession, custody, control or availability of anyone designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c)).

The following are included within the Information Disclosure Statement if applicable and as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98:

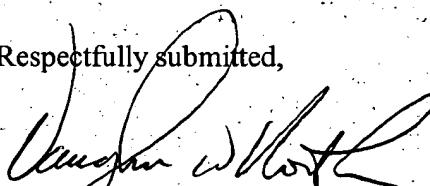
- Concise explanation of relevance of each reference not in English and unaccompanied by an English translation.
- Statement that certain listed references not enclosed are substantially cumulative of an enclosed reference.
- Statement that certain listed references not enclosed were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in prior application no. \_\_\_\_\_, filed on \_\_\_\_\_, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

In order to secure consideration of the items designated above, one or more of the following, if required, is also enclosed:

- Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) or (2).
- Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (amount in § 1.17(p)) constituting the submission fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

In the event that 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) applies and the Examiner is not satisfied that the Statement meets the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or in any other event remediable by a fee, please credit any over payment or charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0100 of the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Vaughn W. North  
Attorney for Applicant  
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PATENT APPLICATION  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 21662.NP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARKS OFFICE

ART UNIT:

EXAMINER:

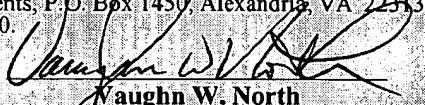
APPLICANT: Colibert, et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/782,707

FILED: February 18, 2004

CONFIRM. NO.:

FOR: DISPLACABLE BALL HITCH ASSEMBLY  
AND METHOD FOR THE SAME

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING <u>UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8</u>	
DATE OF DEPOSIT: <u>5/13/04</u>	
I hereby certify that this paper or fee (along with any paper or fee referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
 Vaughn W. North	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir/Madam:

Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Form PTO-1449 which contains a list of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). Applicant respectfully submits that this Information Disclosure Statement is filed pursuant to:

- 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (b)(1) or (3), within three months of the filing date of the application, or before a first office action on the merits, whichever occurs last;
- 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c), after a first office action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance, whichever occurs first, and is accompanied by either 1) a statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or 2) the fee set forth in § 1.17(p); or
- 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (d), after a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, whichever occurs first, but on or before payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by both 1) a statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and 2) the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

While no representation is made that any of these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed list of references is disclosed so as to comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned attorney of record believes that the references listed, together with any other references which may have been previously submitted or

Information Disclosure Statement

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listed, are the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of each listed reference (or relevant portion thereof) which was not previously submitted to, or cited by, the Patent Office is also enclosed.

Legible copies of the listed non-patent literature and foreign documents or their relevant portions. Copies of U.S. patents and/or publications are NOT included pursuant to the Official Gazette Notice, dated Aug. 5, 2003, waiving the requirement of 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2)(i).

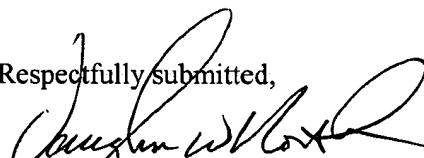
The references listed in the accompanying Form PTO-1449 are NOT enclosed because, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), they were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in application number \_\_\_\_\_, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

For all listed references that are not either in the English language, or accompanied by a translation into English, a concise explanation of relevance as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) is enclosed attached to each.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

Dated this 13 day of May, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Vaughn W. North  
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Registration No. 27,930

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VWN/tlt  
Enclosure

 <b>LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT</b>	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 21662.NP	SERIAL NO. 10/782,707
			APPLICANT	Colibert, et al.
			FILING DATE	February 18, 2004
			GROUP	_____

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIALS	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
A1	2,051,522	10/25/34	C.L. Graham			
A2	3,955,831	05/11/76	Whitchurch			
A3	4,729,575	03/08/88	Eggen			
A4	5,338,050	08/16/94	Haire, et al.			
A5	5,707,070	01/13/98	Lindenman, et al.			
A6	5,772,229	06/30/98	Cattau			
A7	6,308,977	10/30/01	Pulliam, et al.			
A8	6,485,045	11/26/02	King			
A9						
A10						
A11						
A12						

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIALS	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
A13						
A14						
A15						
A16						
A17						

**OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

A18	
A19	
A20	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication with applicant.